SACWN
SACRAMENTO AREA CAREER WOMEN'S NETWORK INC.

Volume 9, No. 3 March 1993

FOR WOMEN'S HERSTORY MONTH:

LILLIAN FADERMAN, Author of "ODD GIRLS AND TWILIGHT LOVERS"

A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth-Century America

Lillian Faderman

Using journals, unpublished manuscripts, songs, news accounts, novels, medical literature and over 186 personal interviews with lesbians of all races, ages and classes, Faderman traces the evolution of lesbian identity and relates an often surprising narrative of lesbian life in America. Faderman discusses the establishment of lesbian subcultures in each decade of this century and the ways feminism and gay liberation have gradually destigmatized female same-sex loving. In the past 100 years, lesbians have taken great strides toward achieving community, and "ODD GIRLS AND TWILIGHT LOVERS " is our story.

DATE:	Saturday, March 20, 1993
PLACE:	Sacramento Inn
	1401 Arden Way, Sacramento
TIME:	6:30 P.M. Networking; 7:30 P.M. Program
TICKETS:	$12 Subscribers
	$ 17 Non-Subscribers
	$ 20 At the Door

Tickets are available by mail, see order form enclosed.

An event for women over 21.

A MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Many of you remember about two years ago when Roberta Achtenberg, then a leading candidate for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Executive Director of the National Center for lesbian Rights, came to speak with us at SACWN about how she balances politics and personal issues in her life with her lover and their 4 1/2 year old son. Well, Benjie is 7 and is going with his moms to Washington, as Roberta has just been appointed by President Clinton to be HUD Assistant Secretary of Fair Housing, Equal Opportunity and Enforcement, and as an "out" lesbian. Congratulations to Roberta and to all of us for our pride in who we are. This is our herstory in the making.

The special event celebrating and thanking retired Mayor Anne Rudin was very nice and I saw numerous Sacwnites in attendance. Our square on the quilt was beautiful, thanks to the efforts of Sandy Virago, as was the Memory Book which Sandy coordinated and which included wonderful pictures, notes, clippings and tributes from many different women and groups wishing to show their appreciation to Anne. Thanks, Sandy!

DOS FALLOPIA started our year out with a bang and a "sold out" event. Thanks to all of you for making some real efforts to pre-register - it helped make everything plentiful. Mark your calendars now for hot lesbian author and herstorian Lillian Faderman in March - this promises to be quite a program for Women's History Month. Enjoy!

Thanks,

Rosy

Rosemary Metrailer
Corporate Coordinator

A LETTER TO SACWN FROM ANNE RUDIN

Dear Friends in SACWN:

Many thanks for the beautiful letter you placed in my memory album. Please know that the respect and appreciation expressed in it are reciprocated.
And the quilt - the lovely quilt- thank you for the SACWN square in it. It will become an heirloom, marking some of the most significant developments of the decade.
Most of all, thank you for helping me to help other women through the compassionate efforts of Wellspring.

Cordially,

Anne

SACWN STEERING COMMITTEE

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Jane Irwin, Finance Coordinator
(916) 424-3153
Ellie Zacks, Special Interest Group Coordinator
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SACWN, Inc. newsletter is published monthly, ten times a year.

No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced without written permission from **SACWN, Inc.** Letters to the Editor, articles and community announcements are welcome. Materials submitted may be edited and shortened based on available space. For more information, contact Sandy Virago at 451-8034.

Advertising Rates

Type	Member	Non-Mem
1/2 Business Card 1 3/4 x 1 3/4	$14.00	$21.00
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Quarter page 3 1/2 x 4 1/2	$50.00	$75.00
Half page 7 1/8 x 4 1/2	$90.00	$135.00
Full page	$160.00	$240.00
Classified ads (per word)	.40	.60
Discounts (pre-paid)	1 year	20%
	1/2 year	10%

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS - - MARCH

NEW SACWN POLICY!

Non-members may attend two special interest group events before joining SACWN.

Stay tuned to the HUB at our monthly SACWN events. Sandy, our executive director is publicizing our Special Interest Group events. This special bulletin will update you on the SIG events for the following two weeks.

New groups recently suggested - horseback riding, gardening, women who have been out twenty years or more, vegetarian cooking and couples with a ten year + age gap. Call me if you are interested in these or any other groups.

Ellie Zacks 334-0667

BRIDGE

Want to learn to play bridge? The best way is to take an organized class with other beginners. Evening classes start Wednesday, March 3rd and run for 6 weeks. Call CSUS Regional & Continuing Education office at 923-9833 for more information. The Bridge group meets on the second Friday and fourth Sunday of each month.

The March dates are Friday, March 12, 7:30 p.m. at Nancy V's, 452-6007 and Sunday, March 28 at 4 p.m. at Kathy Mullen's, 362-3175. Please call the hostess to RSVP, and if you attend, chip in $3 for food. Beginners are welcome and some informal instruction is available from regular players. Call Kathy Mullen for details, 362-3175.

GOLF

As soon as the weather breaks, regular times will be set. Call Judy, 339-1785 for details.

SINGLE CONNECTION

Reorganizing - need you help. Call Joan at 455-1557.

LATE-BLOOMERS

This group needs a new facilitator. Call Ellie at 334-0667.

TOP TEN

March's meeting will on the 21st at 3:00 p.m. be at Dotty's house at 5141 Cabrillo Way. RSVP to 456-2577.

DAVIS OVER THIRTY

The Davis Over 30 group plans a monthly gathering. Occasionally we go somewhere together, more often we meet at someone's home for a potluck, game night or dinner at a local restaurant. For info on upcoming events, call Bev at 753-6504.

RAINBOW CAMPERS

Planning meeting in March. Call Jayne, 921-6642 for information.

THE RELATIONSHIP FORUM

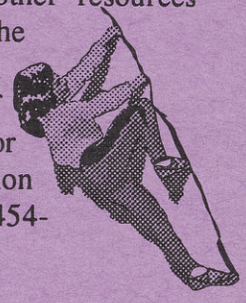
Singles and couples are welcome to join us for discussions of love, intimacy and sex based on material by experts. We're back on a regular schedule of meeting every two to three weeks at people's homes. Although we have a good core group, new people are welcome. This is a learning group in which we share ideas that we can apply in our personal lives. For info, contact Sandy, 933-0670.

BASKET BALL

We're still playing basketball! Interested in a city league? CallMaggie, 456-1420.

NEWCOMERS

If you are new to Sacramento, come meet others who are new, too! We meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month for dinner to discuss SACWN, it's special interest groups, and other resources available to the gay/lesbian community of Sacramento. For more information call Nancy, 454-5847.



HIKING

Hey, all you fair weather hikers! Spring is in the air and we are heading out in search of spring wildflowers. Join us for a fresh air hike on March 13. Call Karen at 753-6670 for details.

HOME REMODELING HOME REPAIR

As of press time, 4 people were interested. Need more to get a group going. Call Lesha 676-0641 or 322-7297 (days).

LESBIAN OWNED

Calling lesbian business owners or wantabe's! We are forming to support each other, learn from each other, share information and exchange ideas. We will meet for breakfast on the third Saturday of the month at 1616 29th Street, Suite 310. Contact Sandy at 451-8034 for more information.

Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers
A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth-Century America
by Lillian Faderman

A REVIEW BY LESHA HRYNCHUK

Lillian Faderman has written a fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable book about Lesbian History of the last 100 years. Justly described as scholarly, the 52 pages of footnotes offer a springboard from which to further explore various episodes of lesbian history that spark the reader's special interest.

Romantic Friendships

Faderman actually starts the book with the late 19th century to lay the groundwork for understanding what was called "romantic friendships" between women. Reprinting excerpts from personal letters, Faderman makes the case that although these love relationships were very passionate, they were predominately celibate. Although acknowledging that few women were likely to have written about their erotic episodes, the presumption of celibacy within these relationships is predominately based on the lack of written erotic exchanges and the Victorian era strictures against sex. But I wonder, how many personal erotic letters have been written in more recent sexually repressive times and, of those written, how many would survive the scrutiny of relatives after the death of the recipient?

But, even if most of these romantic friendships stopped short of actual genital involvement, the passionate love letters and exchanges cited make interesting reading and may create a bit of envy for those of us looking for "love and romance" having experienced the transience of passionate sex in a relationship. Faderman's previous book, Surpassing the Love of Men: Romantic Friendship and Love Between Women from the Renaissance to the Present, is entirely devoted to this subject and is highly recommended to those unfamiliar with this part of lesbian history.

The Feminist Transition

Faderman credits the increasing militancy of the first wave of feminism and the opening of college education for women with the responsibility for transforming romantic friendships. In fact, since marriage and career were considered incompatible for women, "Boston marriages," as same-sex households were called, became very common. As many as fifty percent of college women remained single in the last two decades of the 19th century compared with only ten percent of women as a whole. These "convenient" arrangements enabled women to devote themselves to their careers and to the popular social causes of their times. Faderman cites many prominent leaders of progressive causes who lived their lives with other women.

The Lesbian Chic of the 1920s

Sexologists' theories that fighting sexual urges was not only counterproductive, but, possibly destructive, was popularized by the mass media and helped create the sexual permissiveness and the impetus for exploring lesbianism in the 1920s Faderman states that during the 1920s "unlike in earlier eras, love between women was now often assumed to be sexual (perhaps even in cases where it was not)...". The term "homosexuality" thus came into common usage. This was also the decade in which Radcliff Hall's The Well of Loneliness became a scandalous success. White "slumming" in the night clubs of New York City's Harlem and in other large cities became vogue among middle and upper class whites. These night clubs welcomed lesbians and gay men as exotic drawing cards and lesbian cabaret singers were extremely popular. Unfortunately, the economic depression of the 1930s put an abrupt end to this sexual and economic freedom of women.

The Repressive 1930s

As Faderman states, "... to live as a lesbian in the 1930s was not a choice for the fainthearted". Like in all times of economic downturn, women suffered disproportionately during the Great Depression. With good paying jobs in short supply, women were asked to give up their jobs to men "who really needed them". Many women who would have been lesbians made the bisexual compromise by marrying men for the economic security while continuing to seek out relationships with women. Many working-class lesbians, unable to find jobs, traveled as hoboes, sometimes dressing and passing as men in order to survive. At the same time women's economic independence was taken away, so was their sexual freedom. Lesbians were seen as dangerous and evil, and portrayed in popular fiction as vampires. Still, lesbians who did not internalize society's depiction of themselves did have lesbian and mixed gay bars to go to in the larger cities.

World War II and the Resurgence of Lesbianism

World War II not only lifted the country out of the Great Depression, but also lifted women out of the great economic and sexual repression. Women were needed to replace men in all sorts of civilian and military jobs that were never open to them before. And, just as in the atmosphere of all-women's colleges of the late 1800s and early 1900s, the all-women's factories and military units recreated a lesbian boom. Even military policy encouraged leniency and understanding of lesbians and "special friendships" between women. Lesbian bars flourished in cities near military bases and factories. But, all this freedom was suddenly taken away with the end of the war when women were no longer needed to work at "men's" jobs. The pendulum had again swung to the other direction.

Post War, Cold War and McCarthyism

Throughout the late 40s and the 50s lesbians and gay men were incredibly persecuted as pathologically sick and even unpatriotic. One of the first Executive Orders signed by President Eisenhower mandated the scrutinizing of new job applicants and government employees for homosexuality. In the heyday of McCarthyism, popular magazines propounded the idea that the major cause of society's ills was homosexuality. Lesbians had to endure the military witch hunts in which even chaplains and psychiatrists were admonished to help weed out even potential lesbians. Informants were planted on military base women's softball teams. Both in civilian and military life, lesbians learned the art of deception in order to survive these paranoid times and, as a result, created a well defined lesbian subculture.

Although lesbian and gay bars offered the daring a place to socialize and meet other lesbians, police raids and payoffs were frequent. Even private lesbian parties were raided for "disorderly conduct" with newspapers printing the names of the party guests. The fear of discovery led many lesbians to take gay male friends to social functions as "dates" and even enter into "front" marriages with gay men. This insanity continued into the sixties. It's hard to imagine the courage it took to be a lesbian in the 50s and 60s - it would take a miracle for any lesbian to survive without internalizing society's hatred and fear.

Gay Civil Rights

Although a few lesbian and gay organizations were established during this repressive era, it wasn't until the late 60s, after witnessing the black civil rights movement, that lesbians and gay men started challenging society's notion of them as moral degenerates. This new awareness culminated in the Stonewall Rebellion of 1969 in response to one too many raids experienced by two hundred "drag queens, third world gay men, and a handful of butch lesbians ...". A full scale riot escalated and continued for two days. Within the following year, hundreds of gay publications and organizations were born of this landmark rebellion as were sympathetic stories in the mass media. The innumerable events and gay civil rights gained are detailed extensively and are very uplifting to read, even to those of us who came out in the early 1970s.

Lesbian-Feminism and Creating Lesbian Nation

Although some lesbians continued to be involved in mixed-gay organizations, the second wave of feminism radicalized many lesbians into seeing their oppression as being caused by patriarchy. Through feminist consciousness raising groups, many women came to see lesbians as being at the apex of feminism. The new lesbian-feminists did not want society's acceptance but wanted to revolutionize society and create a utopian socialist Lesbian Nation.

"Women's Culture" was created as thousands of small collectives were formed around publishing books and magazines, producing women's music and music festivals, health clinics, food co-ops, coffeehouses, credit-unions, and woman-based spirituality. An acceptable code of behavior was created and strictly enforced as "politically correct" which dictated how women dressed and wore their hair, how group decisions were made, the jobs they had, with whom they associated and their class background. Political "in-fighting" led many women to expatriate from, and the eventual demise of, Lesbian Nation.

The Sex Wars of the '80s

While monogamous relationships were considered politically incorrect in Lesbian Nation, so was an inordinate interest in sex. The anti-pornography movement educated women about how men had used sex against women throughout history. While heterosexuals and gay men participated in the sexual revolution of the '70s, it wasn't until the early '80s that sex became a controversial issue for lesbians.

A small group of women began advocating a new type of sexual freedom for lesbians - promiscuous, casual sex, along with pornography and sadomasochism. The proponents put their arguments in lesbian-feminist terms. "... they wanted to liberate lesbians from the sexual limitations that had been imposed on them as females". As interest in the lesbian S/M Movement grew, ugly confrontations disrupted small and large gatherings of women at conferences and music festivals. The result was the exploration

Continued Pg. 8

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SACWN!

Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

of "adventurous" sex throughout the county and the short-lived emergence of lesbian pornography, sex clubs and sex-paraphernalia stores. Some found that polarized sex roles created a "barrier" needed to maintain sexual excitement to avoid "lesbian bed death - the oft-observed phenomenon of the disappearance of sex in ongoing lesbian relationships". Faderman also observes that the recent popularity of neo-butch/femme roles "can be seen in part as another conscious attempt to create sexual polarities in order to enhance erotic relationships between women ...".

The Late '80s and early '90s

The conservatism of the "Reagan '80s" and the emerging tragedy of AIDS helped create an interest in the problems of the larger society and encouraged an acceptance of diversity of ideas and people. In large numbers, lesbians have become supporters, activists and leaders in environmental, civil-rights, and "clean and sober" movements. Many lesbians have set aside their political and life-style differences with gay men to become allies in the battle against AIDS which has devastated the gay male community.

Conclusion

This synopsis does not begin to do justice to the quality of Lillian Faderman's book. It can only give you an idea of some of the topics which are thoroughly covered in the 300 page tome. And, although I may have given certain

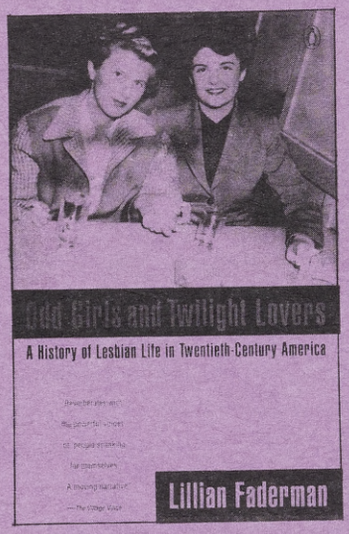
Saturday, March 13, 1993
7:30 p.m.

PINE THEATER - JTU
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

In celebration of Women's History Month

Tickets: $10 Advance, $12 Door
For More Information and to hold tickets,
call the UNR Women's Center at
(702) 784-4611

SACWN CALENDAR 1993



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time periods short shrift, Faderman does not. As is true in life in general, what is really interesting is in the details. Throughout the book, Faderman unfolds our history through individual women's stories, and by describing the popular fiction and non-fiction writings of the times.

Aside from the worthwhile pleasure of being entertaining reading, Faderman's book has the value of documenting our fascinating history and society's treatment of lesbians. Through it we can learn how to deal with society's repression by knowing what had been tried in the past and failed. We can also learn to avoid the destructive pattern of in-fighting. As the saying goes, "Those who do not learn the lessons of the past are destined to repeat them in the future." Lillian Faderman will surely be an interesting speaker who should not be missed on March 20th.

Saturday, March 20
SACWN Celebrates Women's Herstory Month
Lillian Faderman, author of ODD GIRLS AND TWILIGHT LOVERS will discuss "Lesbians in the 20th Century," Sacramento Inn, 6:30 p.m. See article on front page.

Saturday, April 17
Gwen Avery, the Bay Area's Sugar Mama sings blues!

Saturday, May 15
Dr. Sadja Greenwood, Author of "Menopause Naturally" will speak about our health and our changing bodies (or the changing body of someone you love!)

Friday, June 18
Gay Pride Community Dance
A Celebration! SACWN and SLCC are co-sponsoring this dance at the YWCA. Everyone is invited (men and women). Dance to the tunes of Second Wind. From 8 p.m.

IN THE COMMUNITY
Monday, March 8
Women's Film Festival at the Crest Theatre
A fund-raiser for the Sacramento Women's Center.
Films:
Hidden Faces: Interview with an Egyptian feminist.
Myriam's Gaze: Women struggle in a Bogata, Columbia squatters camp.
Selbe: Women organizing in Senegal, Africa
Exposure: Two lesbian poets in India.
With a Vengeance: Twenty years of struggle in the reproductive rights movement in the USA.
Call 441-4207 for tickets ($10)

DIVERSITY WEEK
March 12-19 in Stockton
A celebration to promote understanding and sensitivity toward diversity in age, ethnicity, gender, handicap, religion, sexual orientation, size and socio-economic class. Workshops, films, cultural events. Call (209) 941-0866 for more information.

SUNDAY
Women of Color Support Group
Lambda Center, 1931 L Street
7:15 to 9:00 p.m., call Josie at 442-0185

MONDAY
Women's Rap and Social Group
Lambda Center 442-0185

TUESDAY
Being Gay Today, 10 P.M. on Cable 18

THURSDAY
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6-7:30 Lambda Center 442-1085

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Country Western Dancing at 7:30 at MCC Call 454-4726

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AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL:

Isn't it incredible? They don't want to be viewed as sex objects. They don't want someone looking at their bodies. They don't want unsolicited sexual advances. Can you believe these are the reasons that non-gay men in the military are giving for keeping gay men out of uniform!

According to a June 1992 report of the U.S. Government Accounting Office, the government spent $27 million in 1990 alone to train and then discharge lesbian and gay service persons and to retrain their replacements.

If this makes you mad enough to write, the address is: The Honorable Sam Nunn, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-4703

VETERANS ORGANIZATION FORMED:

The Pallas Athena Network provides assistance to all women veterans. For information, contact Pallas Athena, P. O. Box 1171, New Market, VA 22844. (No postcards requested.)

THE ANNE RUDIN RECEPTION:

SACWN participated with the Coalition of Sacramento Women's Organizations to honor former Mayor Anne Rudin. More than $1200 was collected to start an emergency fund in Anne's name at Wellspring Women's Center. If you'd like to make a donation, send a check made out to the ANNE RUDIN FUND, WELLSPRING, 3230 Broadway, Sacramento, 95817.

A STORY FROM THE RECEPTION:

A very touching story was told by Sister Catherine from Wellspring. A few years ago, then Mayor Rudin dropped off several bags of oranges from her backyard trees to be used at Wellspring. While there, she asked if they could use a new pair of shoes that just did not fit her right. And although they do not usually deal with clothing, Sister Catherine accepted the mayor's gift. Shortly after, a woman who worked the street as a prostitute came into the center, complained that her feet hurt, and asked if they had any shoes. She was given the former Mayor's shoes. Several months later, she returned to the center for help in turning her life around. She has since stopped using drugs, is working to learn a new trade and has been clean more than two years.

Sister Catherine does not dismiss the possibility of the powerful impact of walking in the Mayor's shoes!

SACRAMENTO WOMEN'S GATHERING:

How do we build a community of lesbians? What is our responsibility to each other? Can we move beyond our differences and find a commonality in our sameness? Can we respect our individual uniqueness? Can we influence the coming years by building a foundation for our community now? Do you think about "us" and wonder where " we" are going and what the future will hold?

We are planning a gathering for this summer. A weekend retreat in the Nevada City area. It will be time to recognize our incredible strength and dream about the future. It will be an opportunity to get to know each other just a little bit better. And it will be fun! More details in month to come, but save the weekend of July 23-25 to spend with SACWN.

WHO ARE WE?

Occasionally, people want to know what the "career" in SACWN stands for! According to the dictionary, a career is a profession for which one trains and which is undertaken as a permanent calling. We do all have careers, don't we!

Looking at the SACWN database, it is interesting to note the careers we have chosen. Under "C", as an example, one finds: ceramic tile setter, chaplain, chemical engineer, chemistry teacher, child care, chiropractor, civil engineer, clerk, clinical social worker, CMT, communications, computer, conservatorship, construction, construction contracting, consultant, contractor-driver, controller, cosmetology, counselor, CPA and cultural history teacher. "D" is a shorter list - data processing, desktop publishing, DJ, and dog trainer!

Fascinating aren't we? Have a happy vernal equinox!

SACWN, INC.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL BY MAIL

All subscriptions may be paid in full or in 2 installments, the second installment due in 6 months. Subscription entitles you to our monthly Newsletter and discounts for all functions. Please select the appropriate category and send a check for the correct amount, payable to SACWN, Inc.

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(1)_____

(2)_____

This form is NOT a permanent record. Please note: Names on checks are listed in our financial records and may be audited. You may elect to pay cash for your subscription and/or admission to our events. For your protection, do not send cash through the mail. If subscribing by cash, please make your payment at the next meeting you attend. A $10 fee will be charges on returned checks.

WAIVER - I AM AWARE THAT CERTAIN RISKS OR INJURIES COULD OCCUR ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION IN SACWN, INC. EVENTS AND/OR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH EVENTS, SOME OF WHICH MAY INVOLVE STRENUOUS ACTIVITY (I.E. HIKING, GOLFING, SKIING, CYCLING, ETC.), I HEREBY ASSUME ALL RISKS AND WILL HOLD SACWN, INC. AND ITS MEMBERS HARMLESS FROM ALL LIABILITY WHICH MAY ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH THESE ACTIVITIES.

Signature_____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

*LIMITED INCOME - We consider a person living on a limited income to be anyone who is having a difficult time paying for basic necessities - food, utilities and rent - and who rarely considers entertainment as part of her budget.

* SENIORS -Age 65+ on Limited Income; STUDENTS - Students 21+ on Limited Income; DISABLED - Disabled Citizens on Limited Income.

**SUSTAINING - Contributing a little extra to help supplement others (Seniors, Students, Disabled) on limited income.

LILLIAN FADERMAN

A History of Lesbians In the 20th Century

SACRAMENTO INN
1401 ARDEN WAY
SACRAMENTO

March 20, 1993

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP ____

PHONE _____

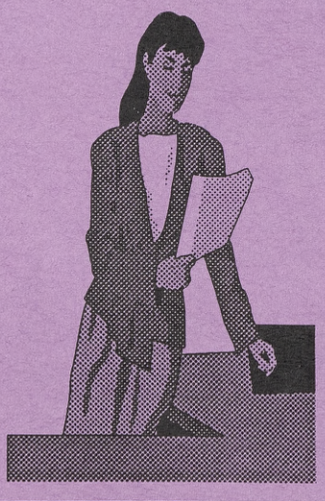
Category	# Tickets	Subscriber Name or #
Subscribers $12	_____	_____
Limited Income (Seniors, Disabled, Student Subscribers) $10	_____	_____
Non-subscribers $17	_____	

Total Tickets: _____Total Enclosed$_____

Tickets at the door will be $20. Please include a **self-addressed stamped** envelope with a check made payable to SACWN. Send to:

SACWN
1616 29th Street, Suite 310
Sacramento, CA 95816

Tickets may be picked up at the above address when pre-arranged. Call 451-8034 for information.

SACWN

1616 29th Street, Suite 310
Sacramento, CA 95816